Appl. No.: 10/016,183 Docket No.: DB000956-000

Amdt. Dated: 18 February 2004

Reply to Office action of 4 December 2003

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 1 - 5 is acknowledged.

The status of claims 6-50 in the listing of claims is changed from "withdrawn" to "canceled" as required by the Examiner.

Claim 51 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 51 is canceled.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the final office action be withdrawn and a Notice of Allowance be issued for claims 1-5. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the instant application is in condition for disposition other than through allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below so that additional changes may be discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Coldren Richard J. Coldren

Reg. No. 44,084 Thorp Reed & Armstrong LLP One Oxford Centre, 14th Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1425 (412) 394-2442

Attorneys for Applicant

Dated: 18 February 2004